Asterisk

Morimoto Shuu

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ASTERISK VOL.8

Morimoto Shuu

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アスタリスク
ASTERISK

△キオ *Kio*

AN ANGEL ON MANIFIS' DUTY. HE HAS WINGS THE COLOR OF THE SUN. HE'S GOT A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE.

フラウ *Fraw* △

ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS. HE'S KIO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND EXCELS IN HEALING TECHNIQUES.

* THE ANGELS' DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE FLOW OF HUMAN LIVES. THE "ANGEL" KIO HAS A MARK ON HIS LEFT HAND WHICH IS THE SIGN OF THE NEXT ARCH-ANGEL.
* ZEHTA WANTS TO DESTROY ALL THE ANGELS AND ALLOW THE SOULS IN THE SOUL PRISON TO BE REINCARNATED. KIO KNOWS THAT WITHIN HIM IS A NEWBORN ANGEL THAT IS ZEHTA'S OTHER HALF, AND HAS RESOLVED TO KEEP THE ANGEL WITHIN HIM SAFE WHILE HE SENDS ZEHTA BACK TO PRISON.
* AS ANTE AND THE OTHERS FACE OFF AGAINST MANIFIS, KIO AND FRAW HEAD TOWARD A CAVE IN A GLACIER RULED BY THE ICE EMPEROR, WHERE ZEHTA IS
* THE CLIMAX OF ZEHTA'S STORY!

MANIFIS EVIL SPIRITS THAT COME TO EARTH THROUGH A "PATH" FROM THE SOUL PRISON. THEY USED TO BE HUMAN SOULS, AND THEY POSSESS PARTS OF DECEASED SOULS OR LIVING HUMANS.

READ VOLUME 1-7 TO KNOW MORE!

Tenri

FORMERLY ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS. HAS A SCAR ON HIS FACE.

Lorein

HEAD OF THE SEVEN ANGELS. IN TRUTH, HE'S THE ARCH-ANGEL.

Deana

ANGEL. ON MANIFIS DUTY.

Ante

ANGEL. HE CAN SENSE THE "COLOR" OF MANIFIS.

アスタリスク
ASTERISK

clang
creak

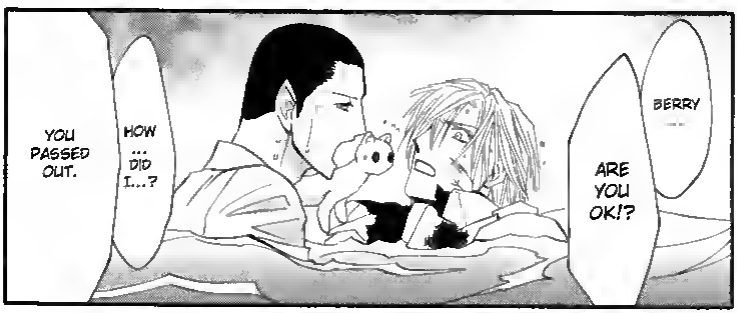
BURST
SWISH
TRIP
CRASH
THUD
FLUMP!

THANKS, FRAW
clatter clatter
scatter
AMAZING
THAT BIKE BROUGHT US SO FAR THROUGH FREEZING TEMPERATURES AND STRONG WINDS
YEAH

WE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF EVERYONE'S HELP.
THANKS, YUTO.
THERE'S A CAVE UNDER HERE.
SHOULD WE GO IN?
KIO.
DO YOU THINK... TIG AND LUKE ARE OK?
SO YOU DID NOTICE THE MANIFIS UNDER-WATER, KIO.
YEAH ...
I THOUGHT IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR TIG IF THE FIGHT GOES UNDER-WATER...

I... CHOSE TO KEEP ON GOING.
THOSE TWO WANTED TO STAY BEHIND ...
SO THAT YOU COULD KEEP ON GOING.
AND THEY'RE STRONG.
THEY'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION THAT EVERY-ONE HELPED US WITH.

TIG!
WHAT ...?
TIG
TIG
WHERE ... AM...?
Splash
creak
creak
creak


YOU PASSED OUT.
HOW ... DID I...?
ARE YOU OK!?
BERRY

Ugh...
MY EYES WON'T OPEN.
OH...!
THAT'S RIGHT, AFTER-WARD...
ENDLESS BLADES OF FLAME.
WHERE IS LUKE?
UNDER-WATER
HE GRABBED HOLD OF THE MANIFIS AND WAS COVERED IN FLAMES.

glub
Woorn
GIVE IT UP!
THE FLAMES WON'T GO OUT UNTIL YOU LET GO OF ME!
YOU CAN'T EVEN USE FEATHERS. HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SEND ME BACK?

LET'S KEEP GOING AND SEE WHO RUNS OUT OF POWER FIRST.
THAT RING OF YOURS LET YOU CONTACT ZEHTA, DIDN'T IT?
THAT'S WHY I TOOK IT OFF YOU, BEFORE.
AS I FIGURED, YOU CAN'T USE YOUR SHIELD, EITHER.
AND YOU CAN'T SUMMON MORE MANIFIS.
IT'S ONE-ON-ONE, NOW.

YOU'RE PRETTY BEAT UP, HUH.
YOU EVEN MANAGE TO ACT COOL WHEN YOU'RE COVERED IN FIRE.
YOU IDIOT, LUKE.
TIG?
IF I CAN USE MY WINGS,
A LITTLE WATER WON'T GET THE BEST OF ME!
Rush

LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
TIG!

OH, THIS?
LUKE TOLD ME TO HOLD ONTO IT.
EVEN IF THAT MAN IS THE ENEMY, LUKE WAS BEING TOO RECKLESS.
DO YOU THINK IT'S KIO'S INFLUI-ENCE?
THAT'S RIGHT, TIG IS ALSO...
Oh!
That's
FWOOM

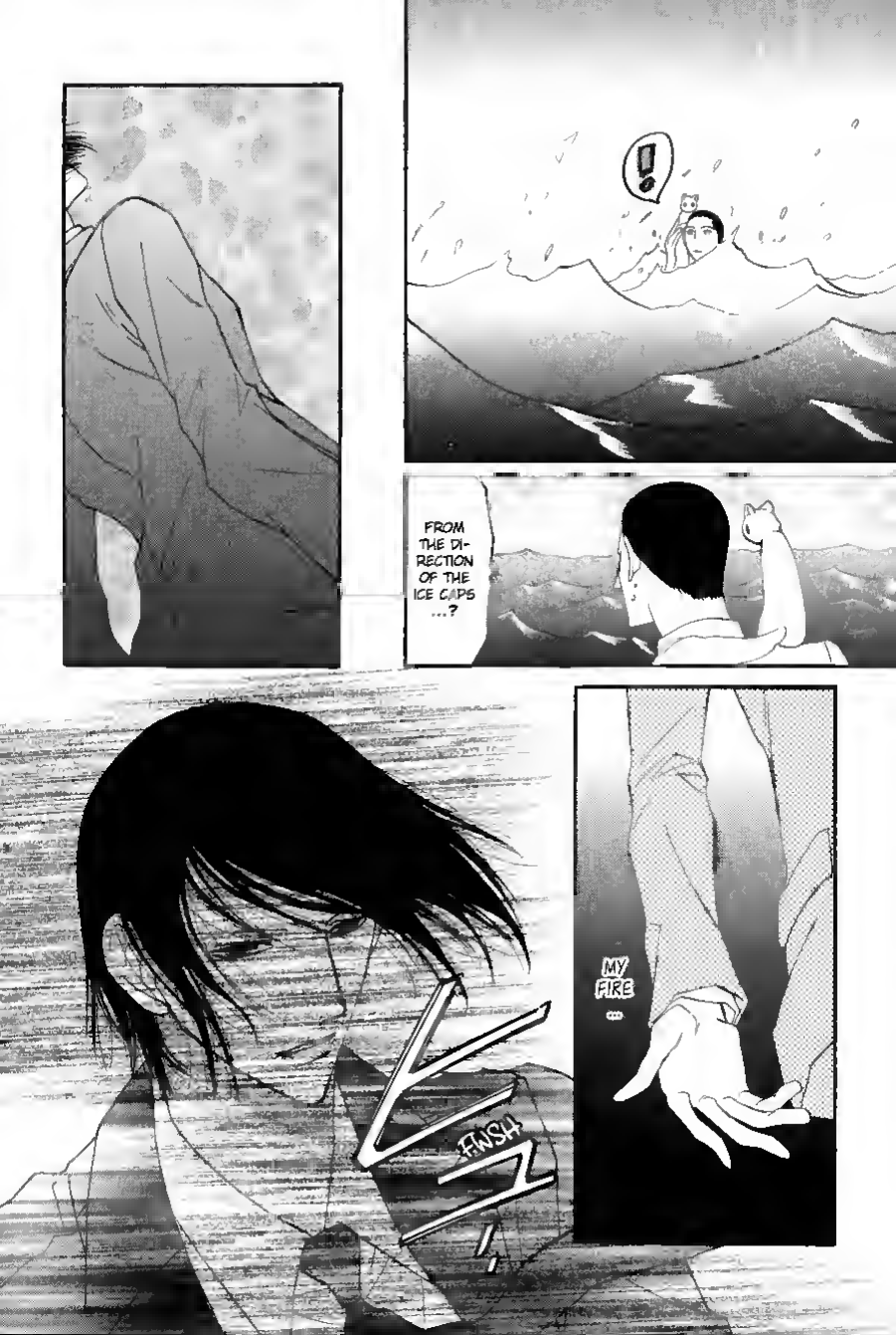
I TOLD YOU IT WAS USE-LESS...
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU FIGHTING ME?
I FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO, YOU KNOW.
IF THE FIRE WON'T GO OUT IN WATER,
HOW WILL IT DO AGAINST ICE?
HAVE YOU TESTED THAT BEFORE?
SLAM

TRY IT ALONE.
Grab

I SWEAR ...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GIVE UP NOW ...
I'LL SEND YOU BACK...!
I WON'T LET KIO SHOW ME UP.
...LET GO.
HOW ...
CAN HE KEEP ON GOING!?
GIWB

YOU SAID I WAS THE ONLY ONE YOU'D PAIR UP WITH.
I TOLD YOU TO HEAD BACK!
LET'S GO, TIG.
I FEEL THE SAME.
LET'S SEND THIS GUY BACK TOGETHER.

GO!


!
FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ICE CAPS ...?
MY FIRE ...
FWSH

IF...
I DOUBT THE TWO OF US ALONE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEND YOU GUYS BACK.
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER HAD WORKED TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT,
THUNK
!!
WORKED... TOGETHER ...?
NEXT TIME ATONE FOR YOUR SINS AND BE REIN-CARNATED TOGETHER.

sigh
LUKE
LET'S GO..
HEY..
CRAP, IT SUDDENLY GOT COLDER
LU...
crumble
IS THAT
...
YOUR STRENGTH
...?

SPLASH
grab
TIG'S STAB WOUND MISSED HIS VITALS.
LUKE IS ACTUALLY HURT WORSE. THE FIRE GOT HIM PRETTY BADLY.
THEY'RE MOSTLY OK.

POOF
SLEET, LET'S GET THEM BACK TO SHORE FIRST.
ANYWAY, THEY'RE AS COLD AS ICE IT SAPS YOUR STAMINA QUICKLY.
THAT WILL PROBABLY LEAVE A SCAR LIKE MINE
TO THINK YOU TWO SENT BACK A GUY THAT I COULDN'T HANDLE BY MYSELF.

SLEET?
DON'T STOP! WE NEED TO HURRY AND--
WELL DONE, TIG, LUKE!
LET US TAKE THOSE TWO FROM HERE.
IT PAINS US THAT WE CAN'T ENTER THE ICE EMPEROR'S DOMAIN AND HELP.

BE CAREFUL, TENRI.
THE ICE EMPEROR IS IN AN EXTREMELY FOUL MOOD.
...SO HE IS, IS HE?
THANK YOU, WATER EMPEROR OF THE EAST, SKY EMPEROR, SEA EMPEROR.
BUT WELL, I'M NOT ALONE.
YOUR CELESTIAL BEAST INSPIRES CONFI-DENCE.
YEAH

Swoosh
Whoa!
BUT I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE HEADED TO THE ICE CAFS, SO I DIDN'T DRESS FOR IT—
It's really cold
TAKE CARE... I'LL LEAVE THOSE ANGELS TO YOU...
What're you all excited about!?
IN TRUTH, TENRI IS STILL ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS, DON'T YOU THINK?
LOREIN HAS ENORMOUS FAITH IN HIM.
To entrust these missions to him
I said I'm gonna fall!
Swoosh
EVEN SO...
TO GO SO FAR AS TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS, AND MANIPULATE OTHER SOULS ..

WHAT A SAD MAN ..
ZEHTA
FL OAT
WHOOSH
PILLARS OF ICE...
WHAT.. IS THIS?
IT SEEMS THE ICE EMPEROR IS ANGRY.

THAT BIRD...
IS ZEHTA'S AVATAR.
Flap
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A GUIDE.
LET'S GO.
Flap!
SLAM

Creak
Creak
THEY'RE MOVING AGAIN
Creak
FROM BELOW, TOO!
ガガガガ
Rumble
ガガガ
WHOA!

THRUST
ズン
CREAK
ギギ
AT THIS RATE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO FORWARD
CREAK
ギギ
RUSH
SLAM
SLAM

PANG
SLAM
PANG
SLAM
PANG
SLAM
PANG
Push.
WHAM
FRAW, YOUR RIGHT ...!
THRUST
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
GOT IT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THEM WITH FEATHERS
THEY HIT PRETTY HARD.
Thrab
KIO, CLOSE YOUR WINGS.
Huh?
zoom

FRAW!
IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG IF WE STOP THEM WITH FEATHERS
BUT THIS IS DAN-GEROUS FOR YOU!
THIS WAY'S FASTER
SLAM
SLAM
WHAM

SLAM
ZOOM
ZUSH
Uh
FRAW!

Squeeze
Kio!
ARE YOUR WINGS OK?
THEY STOPPED ...!?
YEAH, THEY'RE FINE. I CAN MOVE THEM.
MORE IMPORTANTLY .. IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BRIGHTER OVER THERE.

Flap
Slither
YOU'RE A REPLICA
YES. YOU DID WELL, GETTING PAST THAT INTERFERENCE TO REACH HERE.
WHERE IS YOUR REAL BODY?

FRAW!
Eeek

ANGEL THE COLOR OF THE SUN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE USE FOR.
whoosh
ARE YOU OK?
HUH?
HUH?

I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO DRAW THE ICE EMPEROR'S ATTENTION THIS WAY,
BUT IT WAS HARD ON YOU.
YOU REALLY HELPED. THANK YOU
REST UP.
whoosh
whoosh
plop
stretch
POOF
whoosh
whine?

ICE EMPEROR,
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION.
B...IT PLEASE, JUST THIS ONCE, CALM YOUR ANGER.
ヒュウ
Whoosh
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HELPING ANGELS, WHO EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANS.
THEN WHY DO YOU ALLOW A "HUMAN" TO STAY HERE?

WE HAVE AN AGREE-MENT.
HOW SO?
HE SAID IT WAS POS-SIBLE...
TO DESTROY ALL THE HUMANS.
AND FOR THAT.. YOU'RE HIDING HIM?
SHOULD HE BETRAY ME, I WILL SIMPLY IMPRISON HIM IN THIS LAND FOR ALL ETERNITY.
BUT SHOULD HE GRANT MY DESIRE...
DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ZEHTA'S POWER
ONCE HE GAINS HIS TRUE POWER, HE WILL BE ABLE TO EASILY BETRAY YOU...
SILENCE.

LEAVE THIS LAND,
MY ENEMY.
Whoosh
I WILL NOT LEAVE.
PROTECTING HUMANS IS THE DUTY OF US ANGELS
Whoosh

FOR THAT REASON,
I MUST PROTECT THE GREAT TREE THAT CONNECTS THIS LAND TO THE ANGELS' WORLD.
HOW LIVELY.
YOU CARE A GREAT DEAL FOR THIS THING, CORRECT?
Hsss

NOW WE'RE EVEN.
I'LL TRADE IT FOR WHAT I CARE ABOUT.
IF YOU TRY ANY STRANGE TECH-NIQUES ...
squeeze
STOP IT!

TAKE HIM.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE,
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE HIM.

SO THEN, IT'S A TRADE.
I HONESTLY CAN'T COMPREHEND YOU.
YOU WOULD SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR THIS LITTLE THING...
Mew
FWSH
Zoom

Grab
ARE YOU OK, FRAW?
Thank you.
YEAH.
AND SILK?
Mew
Crumble

Flap
Flap
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST HANDED HIM OVER.
I CAN MAKE AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF REPLICAS.

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SO HE ISN'T GOING TO LET US GET ANY CLOSER TO HIS REAL BODY?
HAND HIM OVER RIGHT HERE.
SOONER OR LATER I WILL DESTROY YOU ANGELS...
SO WOULDN'T YOU PREFER THE LEAST PAINFUL WAY?
FOLLOW THIS, KIO.
WE HAVE TO FIND HIS REAL BODY SOMEHOW...

TENRI!?
GREEN REMEMBERED..
WHERE ZEHTA'S REAL BODY IS LOCATED.
ビョオオオ
whoosh
THE ANGELS' WORLD IS IN TURMOIL
HURRY
THAT SAID, I'M IN BAD STRAIGHTS MYSELF
MY BODY'S GONE NUMB FROM THE COLD
crumble
THIS WAY.

GYAA
WHIRL
ZOOM
OUT-
SIDE!?

SWISH
HUFF
Grab

Get
outta
my
way!
SWISH
FRAW!

Rustle
What?
WHAT THE...!?
Flap
GO ON AHEAD, KIO.
GLAM

I...
I CAN HANDLE THIS EASILY ENOUGH BY MYSELF.
Flap
FRAW ...

SWISH!
KIO, OVER THERE.
THERE'S A LARGE HOLE. AND... IN THERE...
INSIDE THE SWIRLING WINDS,
IS A TREE OF ICE...
Pang

ROAR
IS THIS THE ICE EMPEROR!?
I'LL FREEZE IF I STAND STILL!
Creak
Creak
Yank
Creak
Creak

FRAW..
I CAN MAKE AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF REPLICAS.
Mew
YEAH, I KNOW.
I HAVE ...
TO HURRY AND SEND ZEHTA BACK!
JUST WAIT, FRAW!
Fwoosh

IF THE GREAT TREE IN THE ANGELS' WORLD WITHERS AWAY, THE GREAT TREES IN THIS LAND WILL SHARE THE SAME FATE...
THIS LAND WOULD ALSO FEEL THOSE EFFECTS DEEPLY.
CRAP
THE ICE EMPEROR NOTICED I WAS GUIDING KIO
ICE EMPEROR.
creak
creak
whoosh
IT'S CLEAR THAT ZEHTA IS BEHIND THE ILL EFFECTS ON THE GREAT TREES.
AT THIS RATE ..
..ARE YOU..
A HIGH-RANKING ANGEL?
I'M ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.

AS YOU'D IMAGINE,
AMONG ANGELS THERE ARE A GREAT MANY WHO TRY TO PROTECT NATURE AS WELL AS HUMANS.
THE TWO ANGELS WHO CAME HERE ARE ALSO LIKE THAT.
JUST A MINUTE AGO, I SAW HOW THEY WERE DOING.
—HAVE YOU NOTICED?
THEY HAVEN'T USED A SINGLE TECHNIQUE THAT WOULD HARM THIS LAND.

Crumble
BURST

crumble
THE ANGEL THE COLOR OF THE SUN IS BEING ATTACKED BY THE ICE EMPEROR OUTSIDE
CAN YOU AFFORD TO STAY HERE AND FIGHT ME?
OF ALL PEOPLE, I KNOW HE'LL BE FINE.

I GET IT...
YOU NEARLY HAD ME FOOLED.
EVERY ANGEL HAS THEIR LIMIT. NO MATTER HOW STRONG THEY ARE
EVEN AN ANGEL SUCH AS YOURSELF.
BUT YOU WERE PLANNING TO FIGHT MY REPLICAS UNTIL YOUR POWER WAS USED UP, WEREN'T YOU?

TO MAKE ME USE AS MUCH OF MY POWER AS POSSIBLE...
SO THAT THAT ANGEL CAN FULFILL HIS DUTY
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THERE ARE ALSO MANIFIS HERE
Leeek
Leeek

BURST
BURST
BURST
BURST

IT SEEMS ...
THIS ANGEL WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT.
FWOOSH
Whoa!
scrape

IT'S NOT THAT FAR AWAY, BUT I CAN'T REALLY GET ANY CLOSER.
OW
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
SILK. THIS'LL BE A LITTLE TIGHT, BUT STAY IN HERE.
IF I CAN LOWER MY WIND RESISTANCE EVEN A LITTLE,
AND THEN RUN FOR IT...!
LET'S DO IT!

clamp
WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR FOR HUMANS?
DUTY ASIDE,

crack
THE GOOD AND THE BAD.
EVERY-THING... CIRCLES BACK.
I ALSO DO FOR MYSELF.
WHAT I DO FOR HUMANS ...

poof

WHEN A DISASTER OCCURS SOMEWHERE IN NATURE, IT CIRCLES BACK ON HUMANS.
AND DISASTERS ALSO HAPPEN IN THE ANGELS' WORLD.
IF HUMANS DIDN'T EXIST, ANGELS WOULDN'T EXIST.
IF ANGELS WERE TO DISAPPEAR, HUMANS WOULD ALSO BE NO MORE
THAT IS THE NATURAL FLOW OF THINGS.
TO ME... BOTH ARE PRECIOUS.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO PROTECT EVERY-THING ON EARTH.

Pat Pat
Nudge
Nudge
SLEET!
Clop
I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO ANY-MORE.
GET AWAY FROM HERE WITH THE POWER YOU HAVE LEFT.
THANKS FOR STICKING WITH ME THIS FAR.
YOU'RE THE BEST CELESTIAL BEAST THERE IS
Whine

Whoosh
creak
creak
slide
SLEET
I GET IT...
I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND AGAIN.

FWOOSH
creak
creak
BOOM
crumble
crumble

Clatter
SO IN THE END, HE PLANNED ON BURYING ME IN ICE, HUH.
You OK, Mille?
Mew!
Flap
HE'S LEAVING ...
TO GO STOP KIO!?
UH, I

I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT THIS LONG
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE POWER THAT WEI GAVE ME,
HUFF
MY WINGS ...
ARE BROKEN, I CAN'T MOVE THEM
KIO...

HE'S MOVING, BUT HE'S PRETTY FAR AWAY.
KIO'S LIGHT IS GROWING FAINT.
SORRY.. I CAN'T MOVE FOR A BIT.
BUT I CAN AT LEAST SEND THIS..
REACH KIO
REACH HIM

Flutter
Zoom
Zip

caw
Burst

Haaa
Haaa
Wobble
Drip
THE HOLE... GOES DOWN...
HOW FAR DOES IT GO...?
HM?

THIS ..
THEY'RE WHITE AND COLD, BUT.. THESE ARE TREE ROOTS, RIGHT?
BUT THEY'RE UPSIDE DOWN ...!?
DOES THAT MEAN ZEHTA'S NEARBY!?
slither
THAT'S RIGHT, TENRI MENTIONED A "TREE OF ICE"..

RUSH
slide
jump
IT'S PULLING ME BELOW!?
WHAT THE...?
WELL DONE COMING THIS FAR...
ANGEL THE COLOR OF THE SUN.

FORGIVE MY CURRENT APPEARANCE.
WELL MET.
I'M ZEHTA.

I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO MEET YOU FACE TO FACE.
AND AS I SAW YOU RECKLESSLY CRASHING THROUGH THE ICE EMPEROR'S OBSTACLES,
BUT THEN YOUR FRIEND INTERFERED ...
TRUTHFULLY, I HAD WANTED TO RESTRAIN YOU THERE AND TAKE HIM BACK,

Swirl

HMM...
Whoa!
THUD
creak
YOUR FEATHER COLOR IS RARE, BUT BEYOND THAT, YOU'RE JUST A SIMPLE ANGEL...
EVEN SO, YOU HAVE A FAIR AMOUNT OF POWER...
IS THAT THE REASON YOU WERE CHOSEN TO HIDE THE SOUL?
Stretch
NOW THEN...

fwoom
JUMP
huff
HOW ABOUT YOU RETURN...
MY OTHER HALF?

SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO DODGE?
IN THAT STATE, YOU INTEND TO STAB ME WITH A FEATHER?
IT SEEMS THE SACRIFICES OF THE OTHERS ANGELS HAVE ALSO ALL BEEN IN VAIN

SNAP
slither
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SO YOUR REAL BODY CAN'T FIGHT LIKE A REPLICA, HUH.
AND IT'S NOT THAT YOU'VE BEEN HIDING HERE, IT'S THAT YOU'RE STUCK THERE.
WHY ISN'T THE REPLICA APPEARING?

FRAW ...!?
HOWEVER, I'LL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH YOU IN YOUR CONDITION.
I DON'T LIKE TO MAKE EXCUSES,
BUT I DID USE TOO MUCH POWER FIGHTING A SLIGHTLY TROUBLESOME ANGEL.
FRAW ...
THAT'S WHY HE STAYED BEHIND ...
WHEN I LEFT THE SOUL PRISON I FOUND MYSELF HERE.
EVER SINCE THAT MOMENT, THE POWER OF THE ICE EMPEROR HAS KEPT ME BOUND TO THIS TREE.
BOUND... BUT WHY?
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE HE TOOK A LIKING TO ME.

IS IT SO VERY COMFORTABLE INSIDE THAT ANGEL?
DO YOU INTEND TO STAY IN THERE UNTIL HE DIES?
THAT ASIDE, THE OTHER ZEHTA ...
CAN HEAR ME, CAN'T HE?
HOW HYPOCRITICAL
IN ORDER TO MAKE IT HERE HE DESERTED HIS FRIENDS
WHEN HE SAID YOU "WOULDN'T TRY TO LEAVE", I THINK HE ACTUALLY WISHED YOU WOULD...
AND EVEN IF IT WAS A TRICK, HE OFFERED TO SIMPLY HAND YOU OVER TO ME EARLIER.
YOU'RE WRONG.

FROM THE START, KIO TOLD ME "DON'T GO"
"IT'LL BE OK, I'LL PROTECT YOU!"
AND I'VE WATCHED KIO FIGHT THIS ENTIRE TIME
HE FIGHTS NO MATTER HOW STRONG HIS OPPONENT IS.
IF SOMEONE'S IN DANGER, HE TRIES TO SAVE THEM WITHOUT A SECOND OF HESITATION.
HE WAS DESPERATE TO GET STRONGER SO HE COULD HELP PEOPLE.
HIS EXAMPLE ENCOURAGED OTHER ANGELS TO BECOME STRONGER.

EVEN ME ——
I WAS SO WEAK, AND ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN AWAY. BUT KIO NEVER RAN ONCE.
NO MATTER HIS OPPONENT, HE NEVER GAVE UP.
HE REALLY IS AN AMAZING ANGEL.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM THIS WHOLE TIME, AND I'VE ALSO MADE UP MY MIND.

Hey!
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
I WANT TO BECOME STRONG TOO,
LIKE KIO.

Asterisk

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Clothes made from angel feathers disappear after a certain amount of time has passed. Thus the clothes that Kio and Luke took off will also disappear eventually.
Also, "How was Green able to get to the tree of ice?" I wasn't able to answer that question in the manga, but just like what happened in the Tree River Valley, he got lost and wandered in a different dimension.

To all my readers, truly, thank you!

Morimoto Shuu

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING, KIO.
I'LL GO BACK.
THIS... IS THE NEWBORN ANGEL FROM BACK THEN..
GO.. BACK ..?
ZEHTA'S OTHER HALF_

THIS TIME .. I'LL FACE MY OTHER HALF LIKE I SHOULD.
I'LL FIGHT WITH YOU.
I'M SORRY FOR RUNNING FOR SO LONG.
EVEN IF HE OVER-WHELMS YOU,
WE'LL BE HERE!
DON'T LOSE.
BUT STILL ...

GRAB
SWOOSH
THE ANGELS' WORLD, HUH...
YOU RAN OFF TO SUCH A NICE PLACE.

DID YOU PLAN TO BECOME AN ANGEL?
WE SHARE THE SAME SINS.
I KNOW... WE'RE SEPARATE... BUT ONE PERSON.
SEPARATE?
NO, YOU WILL SOON CEASE TO EXIST.

Thrust
MY ARM ...
LIKE THIS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO THROW A FEATHER THAT FAR...
AND IT'S TOO NARROW TO FLY IN HERE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO ..?

Dash
Twitch
Tap
Tap
Tap
Jump

AFTER YOU DESTROY THE ANGELS, WHAT THEN?
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
I HAVE IT PLANNED OUT.
I WILL CONTROL THE CYCLE OF REINCARNATION.
I WANT TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WORLD IF SOULS ARE NO LONGER REINCARNATED.
AND THEN? WILL YOU REMAIN ALONE?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE. WHAT I HAVE IS "POWER". I DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHERS.
IS THAT TRUE?
...WILL THAT TRULY BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY YOU, DEEP DOWN?
ISN'T IT JUST THAT YOU TRULY WANTED SOMEONE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EXISTENCE?

WHAT ...?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS INSIDE KIO.
NO MATTER WHO KIO FACED OFF AGAINST, HE NEVER HELD ANY "HATRED" FOR THEM.
HE ALWAYS TRIED TO HEAR THEIR PAIN AND CRIES FOR HELP.
THAT'S WHY...
DON'T COMPARE ME TO THOSE OTHER PEOPLE!
BEGONE ...!

I WILL SHOW EVERYONE MY POWER...
crack
crack

WHOOOM

IT'S MUCH EASIER TO MOVE AROUND LIKE THIS.
FIRST I'LL HAVE TO GIVE MY "THANKS" TO THE ICE EMPEROR.
Creak
I WILL RULE HUMANITY.
FWOOM

RUMBLE
Whoom
!
INTENDS TO BREAK UP THE ICE CAP!
HE...
CLATTER
THUD
CLATTER

ROAR
THE GROUND'S SHAKING
KIO ...!?
CHATTER
CLUNK

RUMBLE
Flutter
IT STOPPED..?
OH,
SO YOU'RE STILL THERE?

SLAM
ROAR
HOW UNSIGHTLY.
THAT'S RIGHT...

Yank
WELL THEN...
YOU WERE PRETTY RESIS-TANT TO FIRE.
YOU'RE STILL AROUND?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.

I GET HOW YOU DID IT WITH THE MANIFIS WHO ARRIVE ON EARTH WITHOUT ANY MEMORIES.
BUT HOW DID YOU MAKE THE MANIFIS WHO POSSESSED FREE WILL OBEY YOU?
IT'S NOT LIKE I MADE THEM OBEY ME.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SAY I KNEW OF A WAY FOR THEM TO BE REINCARNATED FASTER, AND SHOW THEM A LITTLE POWER.
THEY CHOSE TO OBEY ME.
THEY WERE ALL FOOLS THAT BELIEVED EATING ANGELS WOULD MAKE THEM STRONGER, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE SAID SO.

I NEVER MET WITH ANY OF THEM DIRECTLY.
THEY WERE ALL EXPENDABLE.
E... EVEN SO... THEY BELIEVE IN YOU...
YOU PITY GUYS LIKE THAT?
THEY WEREN'T EVEN HELPFUL, IN THE END.
MOVE...
MOVE... BODY.
MY FRIENDS... STAYED BEHIND IN ORDER TO STOP THEM...
SO I COULD MAKE IT THIS FAR.
—...AND THAT LEAVES YOU ALONE NOW.
LOOKS LIKE YOU WOUND UP BEING THE ONE SACRIFICED.

I...
AM NOT ALONE!
SWISH

HANG IN THERE, KIO.
YOUR POWER ISN'T EXHAUSTED YET.
DON'T LET EVERYONE'S FEELINGS GO TO WASTE —— ...!

Flare
SEVENTH STAR!
SWSH
DO YOU THINK THIS WILL HOLD ME?

PRESS
SHOVE
Wobble
Shit!
DON'T... GIVE OUT NOW!

KIO...
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.
What...!?
float

ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE!?
LOOK UP!
FLARE
WAS THIS DOWN THERE THE WHOLE TIME...!?
WHAT IS THIS LIGHT?

THE COLOR OF THE SUN...
...am...
Mom...
Dad.
THIS IS TRULY...

THE SUN
GO TO SLEEP
THE SUN ISN'T OUT YET, IS IT?
I WANT TO TALK LET'S PLAY
AND EVERYONE IS ASLEEP.
"WHEN I WAKE UP, IT'S ALREADY DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE."
"THE SUN TO COME OUT."
"I ALWAYS WAITED FOR IT."
WHERE IS THE SUN?
LIKE WHEN THE LIGHT FROM A FIRE HITS THEM, DOES THE COLOR OF OTHER THINGS CHANGE WHEN THE SUNLIGHT HITS THEM?
WHAT COLOR IS THE SUN?
IF THE SUN COMES OUT...
WILL I BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH EVERYONE?
I'M SORRY ...
THAT I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LONELY YOU ARE
BUT NOW WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

NEXT TIME...
BE REINCAR-NATED...
AS ONE SOUL.
YEAH,
THANK YOU.

Fwsh
I'M GLAD WE MET, KIO.
Crumble
ZEHTA.

I SEE HIM, SILK.
HOW ABSURD ——...
I'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG, BUT I NEVER NOTICED...
What?
...SO THESE ROOTS ...
ARE PART OF THE GREAT TREE IN THE ANGELS' WORLD.
Mew

GREG, KEEP SENDING LIGHT!
YES
KIO!?
YOU REALLY WEREN'T ALONE.
THEN THIS LIGHT IS FROM...
And the breeze too
ZEHTA?
Ha ha ha ha

HELL
BURST
MY OTHER HALF...
AND HIS EXCESSIVE EMOTIONS HAVE RETURNED TO ME, YOU SEE.

Soul Prison
LORD ENRA!
ZEHTA HAS RETURNED!
I'VE LOST,
ANGEL THE COLOR OF THE SUN.
ARE YOU COMFORT-ABLE?

IT'S A SOLITARY CELL SPECIALLY MADE FOR YOU.
YOU WILL REMAIN IN THERE FOR A TIME.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE CALMED COMPLETELY.
DID YOU LEARN SOMETHING WHILE YOU WERE ON EARTH?

You're not a part of us half...
EVEN IF YOU COULDN'T BE AN ANGEL...
THIS... IS A GOOD OUTCOME, ISN'T IT?
Huh !?
WHAM

ZEHTA'S RETURNED, I SEE.
KIO~
FRAW!?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU AND THIS LIGHT LENT ME STRENGTH, FRAW.
AS EXPECTED, KIO.

THANK YOU.
YOU WERE WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME, FRAW.
Throb
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! WHERE'S... SILK...
YOU GOT THROUGH THAT BLIZZARD? YOU'RE AMAZING!
THANKS, MILK!
Huh!?
MILK DELIVERED MY FEATHER.

Kio!?
...ah!
MY HAND ... IS HOT...
WHAT IS THIS ...?!
Ah... aahh!
klatz

IT CALMED
What?!
KIO...
THE SHAPE'S CHANGED AGAIN..
Whoa!
AND THE COLOR!
THE COLOR IS THE SAME AS THE ARCHANGEL'S
What is this—
IT MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH ON YOU. YOU DID WELL
I'VE COME TO GET YOU.

SILK CAME TO US ASKING FOR HELP.
SILK!
WE WANTED TO COME, BUT THE "PATH" HADN'T COMPLETELY OPENED YET,
SO WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO SEND OUR POWER THROUGH AS LIGHT.
LORD LOREIN!
THANK YOU.
NO, thank you.
BUT SILK DID WELL, COMING THROUGH SUCH A DANGEROUS AND UNSTABLE PATH
Mew
THANKS, SILK.

NOW,
THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON I HAVE TO PICK UP
Huh?
THE WIND STOPPED?
HUH? I CAN MOVE MY BODY !?
Oh
...KIO
WHINE
—— SLEET?

IF YOU WEREN'T RISKING YOUR LIFE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE THE ICE EMPEROR.
I KNEW YOU AND SLEET COULD HANDLE IT.
FWOOSH
GEEZ... YOU KNEW I'M WEAK AGAINST THE COLD AND YOU STILL SENT ME!
YOU DID WELL.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WAY FARTHER AWAY!
MISSION COMPLETE?
Hey
TENRI!
THE TRUTH IS THAT YOUR COMPASSION RUNS DEEP
IT'S BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED —— ICE EMPEROR,

ENOUGH TALK
I WILL OVERLOOK THIS, THIS TIME.
SINCE, UNLIKE ZEHTA, YOU DID NOTHING TO INTENTIONALLY HARM THIS LAND.
THANK YOU.
IT SEEMS YOU ALSO HELPED MILK OUT.
ENOUGH THANKS. HURRY AND LEAVE.
FWOOSH

WE RETURNED TO THE ANGELS' WORLD, AND EVERYONE HAD A HAPPY REUNION.
THE GREAT TREE MADE IT, AS WELL.
THE... GREAT TREE WILL BE FINE, NOW.
BUT WILL YOU BE FINE, GREEN!?
Exhausted
No, it was nothing compared to what you guys went through!
Yeah.

ANTE! DEAN!
SOME-ONE'S BACK!
Rustle
HH! HH!
YOU GUYS!
DON'T WORRY, WE'RE FINE.
Look at yourself!
Konumé told us!
YOU DID IT, KIO!
THAT'S RIGHT, TIG AND LUKE ARE HEALING UP AT THE CASTLE OF THE WATER EMPEROR OF THE EAST.

THE WORST CASE SCENARIO WAS AVOIDED
THANKS, YUTO!
IT WAS USE-FUL?
IT WAS AMA-ZING!
THEY'RE HEALING UP IN A MEDICAL BATH
ARE THEY BADLY HURT?
Ainally calmed out
AFTER THAT,
KIO!
I WAS TOLD TO TAKE THE LONGEST BREAK I'D EVER HAD

BUT IT STILL WASN'T OVER.

SO WE STILL HAVE ANGELS ON MANIFIS DUTY.
THERE ARE STILL MANIFIS WHO ESCAPED THROUGH THE HOLES IN THE SOUL PRISON AND REMAIN ON EARTH,
You're our representative.
Oh no, everyone helped out
You have my thanks
AFTER ZEHTA RETURNED, I HEARD THAT THE REPAIRS FOR THE SOUL PRISON WERE GOING WELL, BUT

Maybe you of all people will Denny.
YEAH. I'LL BE ABLE TO EVENTUALLY SEE YOU TOO, RIGHT?
Huh?
YOU'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO TELL.
YOU'RE HERE, HUH, GREEN.
Oh
TWSH
flutter
flutter
Rustle
Hey
FRAW
...
Hm?
DID YOU KNOW EVER SINCE YOU BECAME ONE OF THE SEVEN?
WHO THE ARCH-ANGEL IS.

AFTER I RECOVERED, I WAS SUMMONED FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH THE ARCHANGEL.
I WAS SO SHOCKED I PRACTICALLY FANICKED...
I ACTUALLY FOUND OUT NOT LONG AGO.
REALLY?
YEAH AND THAT TENRI IS STILL REALLY ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
Before I joined... it was the Six Angels.
Oh. I get it.
WHOA!
MUST BE A COINCI-DENCE...
IT SEEMS SIMILAR TO THE ONE ON MY ARM NOW
AND THE DESIGN ON HIS ARM...
TWO ANGELS!
YOU SEE ANGELS? HOW NICE——
HM?
ANGELS!

◆Asterisk 8 / End◆

●ゼータ編完結です！　アスタリスクには架空のものばかりが出てきますが、私は目に見えなくても存在しているものはいろいろあると信じています。みなさんも見えない存在をいろいろ想像してみて下さい。そんな人がもっと増えるといいなという思いからこの話はできました。

ICHIRACI TOSHASHA SPECIAL COMICS

アスタリスク

8

森本秀

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ASTERISK 8

ICHIRACI Comics

【収録作品】
キオ&フラウが贈る、天使達の新感覚バトル&テイル第8巻!!　仲間の想いに支えられて氷の地を進むキオ。そしてついにゼータとの直接対峙の時が…!!　ゼータ編クライマックス!!　描下し『約束だよ』5頁も必見です!

IT'S A PROMISE
KIO'S FACE WHEN HE SAW THIS
OH.
I WONDER IF HE'S REALIZED WHAT IT MEANS?
DO YOU THINK HE FIGURES IT'S A COINCIDENCE?
PROBABLY.
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE HIS MARK LOOKS LIKE THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
he he

YES...
SO, LOREIN ...
NO, MY LORD ARCH-ANGEL,
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT RASH AGAIN
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, WEI
WHEN I HEARD FROM FRAW AND CAME HERE, YOU GAVE ME QUITE THE SHOCK.
WEI!!
THAT WAS TOO RASH!
IT'S TRUE
I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN
PERHAPS BOTH OF US WERE INFLUENCED BY KIO?
IT'S NOT KIO'S FAULT.

LORIEN, I'M ESPECIALLY GLAD THAT YOU WEREN'T HURT SO BADLY YOU COULDN'T BE READILY HEALED, BUT IF THINGS HAD GONE EVEN A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY .
I KNOW, I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY THAT TECHNIQUE WAS PUT OFF LIMITS
Yes, yes
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE HERE FOR, ANYWAY?
SORRY, I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
MY, MY, YOU STILL CAN'T RELAX?
KIO, FRAW.
Flap

DON'T BE SO STIFF.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
SO YOU'RE GOING OFF TO EARTH?
YES.

Snuggle
LORD LOREIN!
SEE.
I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
FRAW DIDN'T CHANGE EITHER, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO COME BACK EVERY NOW AND THEN.
...OK.
ARCH-ANGEL'S ORDERS
What?!
Now you're formal!?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALSO FINE TO TAKE MY TIME.
AND ENJOY WATCHING HIM GROW, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
◆It's a Promise / End◆